



Montana Association of Counties

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April 6, 2013

Honorable Members of the 63rd Montana Legislature:

The Montana Association of Counties (MACo) supports the provision of health benefits and access to care for uninsured and underinsured residents of the State of Montana. The costs of providing medical and mental health care to individuals who now have no access to care is more expensive, as they are typically only provided treatment when a condition has become an emergency situation. Montana counties spend over \$40 million per year on charity care, bad debt, public health, and inmate medical costs.

As with any illness, early intervention and treatment such as wellness screenings and preventive care, as well as ongoing care and maintenance of health conditions significantly reduce the costs of providing health care.

County budgets are significantly impacted as a result of these individuals not having access to care in the following areas:

1) County owned Hospitals and locally operated Hospital Districts are located in 13 Montana counties. Charity care and bad debt become the direct responsibility of local governments with these facilities. In 2011, these 13 smaller local health care facilities were responsible for a conservatively estimated subsidy of \$1,579, 206 in charity care. (Scattered across the state from Sheridan to Scobey)

In 2011, these same facilities had 3.9 M in bad debt. Much of this is considered to have been accrued by low income patients; however, since these patients did not apply for charity care, the bad debt component is more difficult to measure.

- 2) Counties budgeted \$17,398,538.82 for charity care and public health costs in fiscal year 2012 to provide services to the public in their communities. The individuals using these services do not have health coverage or access to care, so the costs are being borne by the counties.
- 3) Once an individual is incarcerated, the costs of medical care are borne by the county of arrest. Pre-adjudication inmate medical costs for individuals in county detention facilities are substantial, as our county detention facilities have become the "emergency room" for those who are incarcerated and have significant health issues which have gone either undiagnosed or untreated due to the lack of access to health care and/or inability to pay the costs of medical care. In fiscal year 2012, counties in Montana expended \$4,264,100 on inmate medical costs.
- 3) Counties spend millions each year on emergency detention and involuntary commitments of the mentally ill. These costs include the costs of detention, petitions, transports, evaluations and treatments. The Montana Legislature has studied this issue for many years, and in 2009 recognized the need for more community based services by appropriating \$1.3 million for community based services.

With this appropriation, counties such as Gallatin and Ravalli were able to build and staff new facilities, and expand community based mental health services. However, our rural counties are still without local crisis centers and the professional staff necessary to provide critical mental health services to residents, including Montana's Veterans and Native Americans.

The influx of workers in the Bakken oil fields is significantly straining our rural counties resources and budgets. In Musselshell County, the monthly average jail population has increased from an average of three (3) inmates per month, to over 30. As there are very limited community based facilities in the eastern rural counties that can provide emergency detention or the necessary evaluation and treatment of those in crises, our county sheriffs must transport these individuals to the state hospital in Warm Springs.

The results of the 2007 HJ50 study of precommitment costs by the Law & Justice Interim Committee reported the cost of transport from Roosevelt County to Warm Springs was \$1,350 plus 32 man hours.

By providing health coverage and access to care for the uninsured and underinsured, Montana counties could recognize significant savings in their budgets; which would offer counties the opportunity to reinvest in their communities. This could be accomplished by providing the necessary professionals and facilities to provide sustainable and quality mental health and health care services to county residents through enhanced community based services.

In closing, we urge you to support the provision of health benefits and access to care for uninsured and underinsured residents of the State of Montana, as it will provide a significant cost savings to counties.

With highest regard,

Greg Chilcott, President Montana Association of Counties

Attachment:

March 2006 MACo Survey of Montana Counties Re: Charity Care, Public Health and Inmate Medical

			NOW	MONTANA ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES	INTIFC	
			CHARITY CARE,	CHARITY CARE, PUBLIC HEALTH AND INMATE MEDICAL COSTS MARCH 2013 COUNTY SURVEY	E MEDICAL COSTS EY	
Alges			4 5 44			
\$0	Does your county budget any charity care for	nok Nonqge	anitarian, d, etc. just efits to	What di spend on costs f		
Anaconda-DL	No No	WA K	N/A	13.089.92	13 089 92	WOTES:
Beaverhead	No.	N/A	307,693.00	1,622.00	309,315.00	
Big Horn	Yes	150.00	81,480.00	79,746.00	161,376.00	\$150 for meds specifically / \$81,480 contract with hospital for 161,376.00 public health
Blaine	No	N/A	78,000.00	7,222.28	85,222.28	85,222.28 \$78,000 for county nurse budget
Broadwater	No	W/A		18,371.00	86,011.00	86,011.00 Inmate med + \$1,161 catastrophic insurance
Butte - SB	Yes	226,500.00	490,277.00	223,259.00	940,036.00	
Carbon	No	N/A	46,850.00	9,507.65	56,357.65	
Carter	No	N/A	25,000.00	00.00	25,000.00	
Cascade	No	N/A	850,849.00	169,174.00	1,020,023.00	
Chouteau	No	N/A	114,061.00	3,352.86	117,413.86	117,413.86 \$3352.86 - not including cost of inmate medical insurance
Custer	No	N/A	214,758.00	7,637.59	222,395.59	
Daniels	No	N/A	4,569.00	00:00	4,569.00	
Dawson	Yes	8,250.00	330,000.00	59,325.00	397,575.00	
Fallon	Yes	500.00	305,453.00	165.00	306,118.00	
Fergus	No	N/A	673,037.00	20,818.61	693,855.61	
Flathead	Yes	21,785.00	1,678,153.00	157,258.49	1,857,196.49	1,857,196.49 \$21,785 - vaccine admin & pertussis tests
Gallatin	No	N/A	534,805.00	551,793.87	1,086,598.87	1,086,598.87 Public Health - Does not include \$2,075,954 in grants
Garfield	Yes	3,000.00	57,400.00	00.00	60,400.00	
Glacier	S	N/A	58,588.00	6,833.83	65,421.83	
Golden Valley	Yes	2,300.00	N/A	252.63	2,552.63	
Granite	Yes	10,000.00	53,050.00	4,395.00	67,445.00	
≣	No	N/A	159,725.00	51,060.50	210,785.50	
Jefferson	No	N/A	561,321.82	16,500.00	577,821.82	
. Indith Basin	, ,	005 00	00 000 6	2 DEF 40	- 366\$	\$995 - Indigent Burial / \$2,000 - match for MCH Block Grant
l ako	3 2	00.000 V/A	42 825 00	2,303.40	3,960.40	runds
Lewis & Clark	Yes	386,540.00	352,321.00	351,215.00	1,090,076.00	

MONTANA ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES CHARITY CARE, PUBLIC HEALTH AND INIMATE MEDICAL COSTS MARCH 2013 COUNTY SURVEY

				TAINCH FOTO COOK I SOUNT		
	1月1日 1日1日 1日1日 1日1日 1日1日 1日1日 1日1日 1日1日		public health for items such			
	1. 金田本 (1. 1. 1. 1. 1. 1. 1. 1. 1. 1. 1. 1. 1. 1		and public health nurses that provide direct services			
	Does voin county	If vec what ic	for your citizens? Do not include costs for contrarian	What old voil county	建筑	
	budget any		public health board, etc. just	spend on inmate medical		
COUNTY	charity care for residents.	budget for charity care?	for direct benefits to citizens.	costs for Fiscal Year 2012?	TOTALS	Notes:
Liberty	oN N	Α/N	12,750.00	1,000.00	13,750.00	
Lincoln	No	N/A	422,843.00	81,553.00	504,396.00	
Madison	Yes	19,789.00	357,617.00	15,410.60	392,816.60	
McCone	No	N/A	133,714.00	46,781.00	180,495.00	
Meagher	No	N/A	329,686.00	20.00	329,736.00	
Mineral	No	N/A	124,505.00	4,406.10	128,911.10	
Missoula	Yes	237,000.00	1,100,000.00	496,200.00	1,833,200.00	,833,200.00 \$237k - property tax support for PHC Comm. Hith Center
Musselshell	No	N/A	No	09:060'8	8,096.50	
Park	Yes	15,000.00	204,727.00	34,355.00	254,082.00	
Petroleum	oN.	N/A	4,625.00	1,730.00	6,355.00	
Phillips	Yes	00:000'9	189,653.00	33.00	195,686.00	
Pondera	Yes	812.00	104,815.00	4,539.74	110,166.74	110,166.74 \$812 is from private donation - not county funds
Powder River	No	N/A	00'000'09	417.00	60,417.00	
Powei	Yes	150,768.00	40,700.00	19,170.47	210,638.47	IM = \$3974.95 (meds) \$15,195.52 (services)
Prairie	No	N/A	73,673.00	330.60	74,003.60	
Ravalli	No	N/A	154,700.00	263,111.00	417,811.00	
Richland	No	N/A	141,000.00	2,208.52	143,208.52	
Roosevelt	No	N/A	318,800.00	16,588.00	335,388.00	
Rosebud	Yes	40,400.00	472,133.00	95,978.00	608,511.00	
Sanders	Yes	83,413.00	82,812.00	10,713.00	176,938.00	
Sheridan	§.	ΝΆ	123,217.00	9,997.53	133,214.53	
Stillwater	No	N/A	N/A	5,708.00	5,708.00	
Sweet Grass	No	N/A	18,650.00	1,800.00	20,450.00	***************************************
Teton	Yes	4,237.00	167,041.00		188,707.39	188,707.39 IM - From CRS Claims Filed 11/1/11 to 10/31/12
Toole	Yes	5,000.00	61,200.00	15,838.00	82,038.00	82,038.00 \$5,000 - indigent burial
Treasure	Yes	125,000.00	16,466.00	00:0	141,466.00	
Valley	Yes	6,000.00	570,000.00	80,000.00	656,000.00	
Wheatland	2	Ϋ́	72,947.00	5,923.56	78,870.56	
Wibaux	Š	N/A	107,000.00	00:0	107,000.00	
Yellowstone	Yes	347,500.00	3,017,470.00	1,030,163.00	4,395,133.00	
TOTALS		1,700,939.00	15,697,599.82	4,264,099.72	21,662,638.54	